

# THE HOOT OWL

November / December 2011  
Issue 6, Volume 49

San Joaquin Audubon Society  
Affiliated with the National Audubon Society-California

## PROGRAMS

The meeting location is at Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue (across from UOP) in Stockton, and begins at 7:30 p.m. Plenty of parking and refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

**TUESDAY, November 8**  
**Andrea Jones**  
*"Important Bird Areas"*

What is the prospect for California birds during a period of climate change? Audubon California has identified 145 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) that provide more than 10 million acres of essential habitat for breeding, wintering, and migrating birds. Analysis of future climate models indicates that most IBAs will protect many sensitive bird species, but some species will not prosper. Andrea will provide a regional overview of the IBA program, how Audubon chapters can get involved in protection of their local IBA and she will discuss the most resilient species to climate change and how IBAs provide critical habitat and how habitats or bird species may adapt in the future.

Andrea Jones joined Audubon California in May 2006 to lead the Important Bird Area Program. Before coming to California, Andrea worked at Massachusetts Audubon from 1993 to 2006. She received her M.S. in Wildlife Conservation / Ornithology and her B.S. in Wildlife Biology and Management from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

**TUESDAY, December 13**  
**David Yee**  
*"Are You Ready for the Christmas Bird Count?"*

San Joaquin Audubon society is so lucky to have our own nationally recognized birding leader in David Yee and also lucky to have him here this month to guide us through some key birding reminders to help us with our local CBC's.

David will be showing photos and discussing the expected birds found in our area at this time of year and help us develop strategies to have successful CBC's. Everyone from beginning birder to expert will benefit from this wonderful presentation by a wonderfully talented birder.

## FIELD TRIPS

**FRI-SAT-SUN, November 4, 5, 6—Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival**  
Family activities, workshops, field trips, art, and more. See announcement on page 2.

**SATURDAY, November 5—Introductory Birding**

Join leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648 or [rowoth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rowoth@sbcglobal.net)) at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi (on the east side of Lodi Lake Park, off of Turner Rd.) at 8:00 a.m. Birders of all skill levels are welcome, but the focus will be on birding fundamentals. Extra binoculars and field guides will be available.

**SATURDAY, November 12—Mokelumne River Day Use Area**

Join leader Liz West for this trip to one of our favorite birding destinations. Specialties of the area include Wild Turkey, Rock Wren, Osprey, and Common Merganser, among others. Liz will also be doing our monthly bird count at this location. Meet at the main fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m. For more information, call Liz at 351-1232 (cell) or 744-0218 (home).

**THU-SUN, November 17-20—Central Valley Birding Symposium**

Don't miss Northern California's premiere birding festival, and one of the highlights of the birding year! Field trips, workshops, vendors, and art show. See article on page 2.

**SATURDAY, December 3—Introductory Birding Field Trip**

See entry for Saturday, November 5. Join leader Jim Rowoth at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi at 8:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY, December 11—Mokelumne River Day Use Area**

See entry for Saturday, November 12. Join leader Liz West at the main Fish Hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY, December 18—Stockton Christmas Bird Count**

Ready or not, Christmas Bird Count time is just around the corner! These annual events rely heavily on volunteer effort from folks just like you--first time counters and "repeat offenders" as well. So come on out and spend a day in the field learning more about our winter avifauna and contributing to the century-long CBC effort. And if you live in the count circle itself and cannot be in the field, consider being a feeder watcher at your residence! Contact Jim Rowoth (956-2648, [rowoth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rowoth@sbcglobal.net)) for more information or to sign up for the Stockton Count.

**SATURDAY, December 31—Wallace-Bellota Christmas Bird Count**

Spend this New Year's Eve in the great outdoors! This is the foothill counterpart to the Stockton CBC. Birders of all ages and abilities are welcome. We need your help! For more information or to sign up, contact Kasey Foley, [kaseyfoley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kaseyfoley@sbcglobal.net) to sign up.



## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the Fifteenth Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 17-20, 2011 at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. Please come and help us kick off this year's CVBS! Come meet the CVBS board & staff members! Reconnect with old friends! Meet new ones! Take advantage of the scrumptious hors d'oeuvres buffet & No Host Bar on Thursday night.

Thursday Night Keynote speakers are: Ed Harper & John Sterling presenting a program on "Appreciating the Birds of the Central Valley". Come sit back and watch as Ed & John take us on a photographic journey to catch a glimpse of the avian world of the Central Valley.

Friday Night's keynote program is presented by Ron LeValley on "The Writings of William Leon Dawson—a California Bird Pioneer". Dawson's writings are humorous, sad, spiritual, satirical, and inspirational. Ron's presentation and photography captures much of this feeling.

Saturday Night's keynote program is by Jeff Gordon on: "10 Birds that Changed Birding." There is the "spark" bird—the one that turned you from a casual observer into an avowed birdwatcher, willing to endure long miles and early hours in search of new species. There are birds that thrilled you with their rarity, their beauty, and their unexpected behaviors. Come hear what Jeff has to say.

Other events include workshops on Swallow Identification by Joe Morlan & a Warbler ID Workshop by Jon Dunn. There are also programs on topics about Bird Migration & Wetlands Icons.

Our field trips always turn up exciting birds. Add in the always entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of art and gifts for yourself or others at the Birder's Market, and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time! There's something for everyone interested in birds. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun.

To look over the line-up of speakers, workshops, and field trips check out our website at: [www.cvbs.org](http://www.cvbs.org)

CVBS Steering Committee  
cvbsreg@gmail.com  
(209)369-2010



## Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival

Mark your calendars for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival, to be held Nov. 4-6, 2011, at Hutchins Street Square, in Lodi. The festival kicks off on Friday, Nov. 4, with a wine & hors d'oeuvres reception from 6:00-8:30 p.m. sponsored by the wineries of Woodbridge Uncorked that opens the festival and art show.

This year's festival features family activities, an art show, workshops, wildlife demos, and nature tours. General admission to the festival is FREE, although there is a charge for field trips. There is a full schedule of programs on Saturday and Sunday, and a wide variety of field trips is offered both days. For registration and information, go to [www.cranefestival.com](http://www.cranefestival.com) or call 800-581-6150.

## Woodbridge Crane Tours

The California Department of Fish and Game invites you to come out on a tour, in Lodi, during the "Season of the Sandhill Crane." The season begins with the arrival of the Sandhill Cranes into the Delta and Central Valley in about late September, where they will spend the fall and winter months. Tours consist of viewing Sandhill Cranes and other unique wintering waterfowl, hearing a presentation on Sandhill Cranes and their Reserve habitat, and viewing the cranes' impressive, nightly behaviors at a location that is only open to the public during these special tours. Information on the Woodbridge Sandhill Crane Reserve, and on the tours, is available at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/cranetour/>

# GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

*October 24, 2011*—As movie-goers watch the stars of *The Big Year* in their quest to count birds, some may be motivated to try the hobby for the first time. The annual [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) is the perfect opportunity. The event is hosted by [Audubon](#), the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#), and Canadian partner [Bird Studies Canada](#). The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species. Anyone can participate in this free event and no registration is needed. Watch and count birds for at least 15 minutes on any day of the count, February 17–20, 2012. Enter your results at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org), where you can watch as the tallies grow across the continent. The four-day count typically records more than 10 million observations.

"When thousands of people all tell us what they're seeing, we can detect patterns in how birds are faring from year to year," said Janis Dickinson, director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

"The Great Backyard Bird Count is a perfect example of Citizen Science," says Audubon Chief Scientist, Gary Langham. "Like Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, volunteers help us with data year after year, providing scientific support that is the envy of many institutions. It's also a lot of fun."

"We're finding that more people are taking part in our bird count programs every year--and the more that take part, the better it is for the birds," says Richard Cannings, Senior Projects Officer for Bird Studies Canada.

The 2011 GBBC brought in more than 92,000 bird checklists submitted by participants from across the United States and Canada. Altogether, bird watchers identified 596 species with 11.4 million bird observations.

Results from the 2011 GBBC included:

- Increased reports of Evening Grosbeaks, a species that has been declining;
- A modest seasonal movement of winter finches farther south in their search for food;
- The Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported from Alaska for the first time, more evidence of an introduced species rapidly expanding its range.

Although it's called the Great "Backyard" Bird Count, the count extends well beyond backyards. Lots of participants choose to head for national parks, nature centers, urban parks, nature trails, or nearby sanctuaries. For more information, including bird-ID tips, instructions, and past results, visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). The count also includes a photo contest and a prize drawing for participants who enter their bird checklists online.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible in part by sponsor [Wild Birds Unlimited](#).

**Editors:** Visit the [GBBC News Room](#) for high-resolution images and your state's top-10 lists from the 2010 count. Please also inquire about possible interviews with local participants.

**Contacts:**

- Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, (607) 254-2137, [pel27@cornell.edu](mailto:pel27@cornell.edu)
- Delta Willis, Audubon, (212) 979-3197, [dwillis@audubon.org](mailto:dwillis@audubon.org)
- Dick Cannings, Bird Studies Canada, (250) 493-3393 (Pacific time zone), [dcannings@birdscanada.org](mailto:dcannings@birdscanada.org)

## BIRD SIGHTINGS

*August 15, 2011 - October 16, 2011*

*(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)*

Submitted by Liz West

The **Marbled Godwits** found by Jim Rowoth on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August at the Lodi Sewage Ponds continued through at least August 27<sup>th</sup>, when one was seen on a San Joaquin Audubon trip led by David Yee.

John Sterling found a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at the Lodi Sewage ponds on August 16<sup>th</sup>. On the 18<sup>th</sup> David Yee also saw a juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper at the same location.

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*New website:* [www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org](http://www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org)

## Calif. Bird Alerts

No. California	415-681-7422
Monterey	831-626-6605
Morro Bay	805-528-7182
So. California	818-952-5502
Santa Barbara	805-964-8240
Los Angeles	323-874-1318
San Diego	619-688-2473

Joint membership in National Audubon and San Joaquin chapter includes a subscription to both *Audubon* magazine and *The Hoot Owl*. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to:

San Joaquin Audubon C1ZC220Z  
Attn: Membership  
P.O. Box 7755  
Stockton, CA 95267

*(Renewals should be mailed directly to National Audubon per renewal notice.)*

Introductory rate:	\$20	Student/Senior:	\$15
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